

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MINUTES

May 14, 2013

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection met on May 14, 2013, at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room, Madison, WI. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by s. 19.84, Stats.

Call to Order

Board Chair Andy Diercks called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Members Present

Michael Dummer, Miranda Leis, Andy Diercks, Mark Schleitwiler, Richard Cates, Dennis Badtke and Dean Strauss were present. John Koepke was absent.

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Andy Diercks welcomed the two new board members Dean Strauss and Dennis Badtke to the board.

Dean Strauss introduced himself and stated he was honored for the opportunity to join the DATCP board. He is dairy producer from Sheboygan and also raises wheat, corn, soybeans and alfalfa. He has been a member of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and was a past president of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. He also previously served on the Wisconsin Beef Council Board of Directors and is excited to bring his breadth of agriculture experience to the board.

Dennis Badtke joins the board from Rosendale and grew up on a dairy farm that now cash crops. He is currently the Chief Appraiser for Badgerland Financial focusing on following trends in the real estate market. He is looking forward to working with the Board and has heard great things and met good people already.

Minutes

Motion

Miranda Leis made a motion to approve the March 22, 2013 Board minutes. Seconded by Michael Dummer. An amendment was requested by Andy Diercks regarding his participation on the water panel clarifying that he spoke at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation

Association and the audience was mixed with those opposed to and in favor of the current methods used for water conservation. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Appearances

Kara Slaughter of the Wisconsin Farmers Union spoke in favor of ATCP 49. She shared her appreciation of the Department's efforts and work on the rule. She felt it encourages advanced planning of farmland preservation and promotes keeping good farmland available for future generations of farmers. She highlighted a Country Today article which wrote about rising farmland values and recent large purchases of farmland from investors. She further stressed the importance of thinking of future gains and not falling for a quick sale or return.

Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association came in front of the Board in favor of ATCP 49. He believes the Department did an excellent job on the rule. The program functioned previously without rules for a long time but ATCP 49 will promote greater consistency in farmland preservation planning between counties. The rule also strengthens the program and reinforces conservation compliance requirements which are important to the county land conservation departments, committees and staff. He was also pleased to see that Joint Finance approved changes to the funding for farmland preservation and removed the cap on funding which has been a depressant from potential participants. He supports the idea that the program is now projected to be self-sufficient.

Appointments to Standing Advisory Councils

Secretary Ben Brancel presented to the Board pending appointments to the Department's six standing advisory councils. The standing advisory councils are created to advise the Department. The five currently active standing advisory councils are: Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council; Organic Advisory Council; Rural Energy Management council; Agrichemical Technical Advisory Council; and the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Council.

Motion

Michael Dummer made a motion to approve the pending appointments for all five standing advisory councils. This was seconded by Dick Cates. Motion approved unanimously.

ATCP 49 Farmland Preservation (Final Draft)

Keith Foye and Alison Volk of the Bureau of Land and Water Resources in the Division of Agricultural Resource Management presented the Final Draft ATCP 49 rule to the board for approval.

Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program, which has been in place since the 1970's, was recently recreated under 2009 Wis Act 28 under Chapter 91, stats. to acknowledge the growing pressures on farmland across the state and to curb the increasing conservation of farmland out of agricultural use. This law ensures that local governments and counties evaluate their agricultural land and update their farmland preservation plans before January 1, 2016. Local governments may also choose to adopt farmland preservation zoning ordinances in order to protect farmland. These zoning ordinances must be kept updated and submitted to the Department for certification. Landowners with farmland preservation agreements, which are agreements that must be landowner initiated and within a state designated Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA), are eligible to collect farmland preservation credits.

ATCP 49 aligns the Agency with Chapter 91 and adds further definitions and clarifies certain terms within the Chapter. The rule specifies the application content and outlines the process for receiving certification of farmland preservation plans, ordinances and ordinance amendments. It also specifies additional uses allowed in a farmland preservation zoning district and describes when the department may deny an application for a farmland preservation agreement.

The Board previously approved the Hearing Draft of this rule in December 2012 and subsequently the Agency held 4 public hearings in February 2013 on the original rule proposal with a written comment period open through March 15th. A total of 49 people attended those hearings with 27 comments received and 14 written comments were submitted. The Department modified the final draft rule slightly to incorporate several changes based on the public comments and minor technical changes suggested by the Rules Clearinghouse.

Motion

Michael Dummer made a motion to approve the final draft rule of ATCP 49. This was seconded by Dick Cates. Motion approved unanimously.

ATCP 90, 91, 92, 113, and 136 (Hearing Draft) Fair Packaging and Labeling; Selling Commodities by Weight, Measure or Count; Weights and Measures; Gasoline Advertising; and Mobile Air Conditioners, Reclaiming or Recycling Refrigerant

Michelle Reinen, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Division of Trade & Consumer Protection, presented the Hearing Draft ATCP 90, 91, 92, 113 and 136 rule to the board for approval and to authorize public hearings on these rules.

The Hearing Draft modifies the existing rules with a number of technical updates and minor changes. It does not represent any significant shift in the overall goal or policies off the existing rules.

Under ATCP 90, Fair Packaging and Labeling, the rule modified the definition of "Unreasonable shortage" to specifically reference NIST Handbook 133, "Checking the Net Contents of

Packaged Goods” versus a previously sighted older version. This is also updated in ATCP 91, Selling Commodities by Wright, Measure or Count, where a NIST Handbook 130 “Uniform Laws and Regulations in the Area of Legal Metrology and Engine Fuel Quality” 2011 version is cited where it should reference the 2013 edition.

In ATCP 92, Weights and Measures, a clarification is made between vehicle scale and livestock scale regulation. The term “vehicle scale” does not apply to scales that are not in commercial service. Also, installing or relocating a vehicle scale requires a permit from DATCP; however there is no need for operators to request variances for livestock scales. The rule also updates a reference to the 2011 version of the NIST Handbook 44, “Specification, Tolerances and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices” to reference the 2013 edition. Several “notes” were also updated to conform with changes to the DATCP web page.

In regards to Gasoline Advertising, ATCP 113, the rule updates references to the current ASTM standards.

In the 2011 Wisconsin Act 187 changes were made in regards to DATCP authority to prohibit the sale of non-ozone-depleting refrigerants. Therefore, this rule updates ATCP 136, Mobile Air Conditioners, Reclaiming or Recycling Refrigerant to reflect that only ozone-depleting refrigerants are prohibited from being sold in containers less than 15 pounds. Also, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently approved a new type of refrigerant (“HFO-1234fy”) and the rule updates the exiting previous existing rule to recognize the new product and associated specification and equipment standards.

Motion

Dick Cates made a motion to approve the Hearing Draft Rule of ATCP 90, 91, 92, 113 and 136 rule. This was seconded by Miranda Leis. Motion approved unanimously.

ATCP 134 Residential Rental Practices (Final Draft Rule)

Michelle Reinen, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, in the Division of Trade & Consumer Protection presented the Final Draft Rule of ATCP 134 to the board for approval.

The proposed rule amends ATCP 134 relating to residential rental practices and conforms certain provisions in the existing ch. ATCP 134 with provisions in Ch. 704 which was recently created in 2011 Wisconsin Act 143.

The Board previously approved the Hearing Draft of this rule in December 2012 and subsequently the Agency held a public hearing in February 2013 on the original rule proposal. There were no attendees at the hearing and DATCP did not receive any written comments. The Department modified the final draft rule slightly to incorporate minor technical changes suggested by the Rules Clearinghouse.

Act 143 made the following changes that affect some of the provisions in the current rule relating to:

- Disclosures required before entering into a rental agreement
- Returning security deposits
- Withholding security deposits
- Prohibiting certain rental agreement provisions
- Confiscating personal property left behind by a tenant
- Violations of Landlord Tenant Law that may constitute a violation of Unfair Trade Practices Law.

Act 143 dictates that a landlord must make certain disclosures relating to habitability before entering into a lease agreement with a tenant, accepting any earnest money or security deposits. Security deposits may also only be withheld at the end of a lease agreement for specific reasons such as damage to the premises; unpaid rent; unpaid utilities or assessments that the landlord is liable for unpaid amounts; or other reasons specifically listed in the rental agreement under "nonstandard rental provisions." The current rule included provisions that were similar, but not identical, to these and therefor were updated to align with statute.

Minor changes were also made in the proposed rule to allow a landlord to dispose of personal property left behind by a tenant at the landlord's discretion as long as certain conditions were met. This is contradictory to the current rule which prohibits a landlord from confiscating a tenant's personal property except as authorized by law or in accordance with a written lien agreement.

Also addressed was under the current rule, if a tenant surrenders a property before the last day of the rental agreement, the landlord must return the security deposit within the 21 days after the landlord receives a written notice from the tenant that they have surrendered the premises. Act 143 defines the 21 day timeline to begin after the last day of the rental agreement, regardless of when the tenant surrenders the property if prior to the end of the lease agreement.

Lastly, the proposed rule aligns with current statute to indicate that the entire rental agreement will be void and unenforceable if it contains any of the prohibited provisions. This is a change from the current rule which relied on a test established by the courts to determine whether the entire rental agreement was void based on the inclusion of a prohibited provision.

Motion

Miranda Leis made a motion to approve the Hearing Draft Rule of ATCP 134 rule. This was seconded by Dennis Badtke. Motion approved unanimously.

Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Services (WASS) Report

Greg Bussler, State Statistician, updated the Board on the following:

- Prospective Planting Survey report released. As of March 1st, Wisconsin Farmers indicated they intend to plant or harvest:
 - 4.35 million acres of corn
 - 1.70 million acres of soybean
 - 1.38 million acres of hay
- US Farmers as a whole indicated they intend to plant or harvest:
 - 97.3 million acres of corn
 - 77.1 million acres of soybean
- Production Report
 - In March, 2.4 billion pounds of milk were produced in Wisconsin.
 - Milk production in 23 major states totaled 16.4 billion pounds.
 - As of April 1st, Wisconsin had 11,023 milk cow herds. Down 614 herds since April 2012.
 - Wisconsin was number 1 in cheese production for 2012 with 2.79 million pounds produced.
 - Wisconsin produced 26% of the US cheese market
 - Top cheeses produced were Italian, Mozzarella and Cheddar Cheese
- Price Report:
 - March price of \$19.40 per hundredweight of milk, projected price of \$19.70 per cwt. in April
 - Corn sold for \$6.70 per bushel
 - Soybeans sold for \$14.10 per bushel
 - Alfalfa hay sold for \$255 per ton up 120 per ton
- Planting Progress/Concerns:
 - Slow spring tillage of 26% complete
 - Corn is 14% planted, 32 percentage points behind the five year average
 - Soybeans planted 1% compared to a 13% 5 year average
 - Top soil moisture is 1% short
 - Some concerns of winterkill affecting alfalfa
 - Recent frost may have hurt budding fruit trees
- Census of Agriculture 2012
 - Wisconsin is top state for responding
 - Farmers have until May 31st to send in report
- June Agricultural Survey
 - Collecting data from May 31st to June 14th
 - Critical to respond as this info used for planned acres for 2013
 - Results released Friday, June 28th

Animal Health Emergency Programs Update

Darlene Konkle, Veterinary Emergency Program Manager within the Division of Animal Health, presented a PowerPoint summarizing the ongoing projects within the Division relating to the Animal Health Emergency Management Program.

This report included information on:

- Business Continuity Planning, including animal movement permitting and secure product movement (secure milk supply, secure egg supply, carcass transportation)
- National Veterinary Stockpile exercise planning, Wisconsin exercise in January 2015
- Regional exercises with county emergency managers and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)
- Support of local disaster response plans for livestock and companion animals
- Partnerships

Glendale School Partnership Year End Report

Human Resources Specialist Nancy McLean presented the yearly report on the various Glendale programs that DATCP is involved with including:

- Take Your School to Work Day- DATCP staff show the Glendale student what future jobs for them might look like. Students saw presentations on:
 - ✓ New puppy and dog care presented by Animal Health and Trade & Consumer Protection
 - ✓ Sanitary conditions and food handling by the Division of Food Safety
 - ✓ Emerald Ash Borer and Bee Keeping were presented by the Division of Agricultural Resource Management
 - ✓ GIS and HAZMAT presentation by the Division of Management Service
- School Supply Drive- DATCP collected 20 large boxes of school supplies and clothing for donation to Glendale.
- Silent Auction Fundraiser- DATCP raised over \$2000 to buy each child at Glendale a book. Additional money then went to the teachers at Glendale to use for additional supplies in their classrooms. Staff member Karen Schultz also donated snacks and treats for the students during their daily snack time.
- Glendale Gardens- DATCP employees may bring in an item from their garden which other staff members can purchase. The resulting money is donated to the Glendale garden where they can purchase needed supplies specifically for their garden. DATCP raised \$275 this past year.
- Volunteer program- DATCP staff work with assigned students at Glendale for one-on-one time. This program is on hold currently due to a staff vacancy.

Division of Food Safety Report

Division Administrator Steve Ingham presented an update on the Division of Food Safety.

The Bureau of Meat Safety and Inspection has been preparing for an onsite audit by USDA beginning today and continuing for two weeks. USDA will visit eight different meat establishments at random. These plants have had compliance issues and/or have a high volume of product. USDA will determine whether the Meat Safety Inspection program is handling issues correctly and promptly.

Wytttenbach Meats in Prairie Du Sac has been approved to participate in the new cooperative interstate meat shipment program. The next group of meat establishments is being reviewed now.

The Meat Safety and Inspection Bureau recently learned of the USDA budget cut based on the recent sequestration. The USDA budget allocation typically pays for 50% of the normal in state meat program and 60% of the cooperative interstate meat shipment program. The budget cut amount is higher than what the Bureau had hoped for but they are still able to cover inspections, operate core functions, and the cooperative interstate meat shipment program.

The Bureau of Food Safety and Inspection has recently submitted a grant proposal to the FDA for the development of on-line training modules for use by the Bureau's sanitarians and local agent program. The modules would improve training consistency, allow easy refresher training, and would facilitate assessment efforts which will identify future training areas or improvements.

Rulemaking has been very busy with the Legislature reviewing all administrative rules. The Assembly Consumer Protection Committee recently recommended the need to modernize and clarify ATCP 88 (dealing with eggs grading, handling and labeling). The Division also anticipates revising ATCP 60 relating to dairy farms and ATCP 80, dairy plants, due to changes in the dairy industry, ordinances and legislative changes to definition.

The National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments made some notable decisions last month at their meeting in Indianapolis, one of the most important being the proposal to reduce the somatic cell count limit to 400,000 cells/mi over a 2 year period failed by 6 votes. The proposal to streamline the process whereby the FDA can require additional testing of milk for contaminants passed along with the proposal to use the new beta-lactam testing of frozen sheep milk.

Farmer Assistance & Services Report

Kathy Schmitt, Bureau Director of the Farm Services & Sector Development, along with staff members, John Dupuis, Jack Chang, Marty Grosse, Frank Friar, Laura Pain, and Jeff Swenson presented a report on the services they provide to farmers that range from beginning, growth, specialization, expansion and transition.

The assistance is provided to assist farmers with accomplishing their goals, matching the needs of the individual farmer across many different types of farming operations, challenges and opportunities.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided that outlined the following:

- Wisconsin Farmers and the Agricultural Economy
 - ✓ Types of Enterprises
 - ✓ Market Share of Sales by Farm Types
 - ✓ Farmer Demographics and Farm Income

- Services to Farmers
 - ✓ Beginning and Expanding Farmer Services
 - Livestock Farmers
 - Local Food & Minority Farmers
 - Retiring Farmers
 - ✓ Farmers and Others At-Risk
 - ✓ Client Assistance Program

Alice In Dairyland Year End Report

Rochelle Ripp, the 65th Alice in Dairyland, presented her end year summary which included a video clip of her year as Alice.

Throughout the past year, Rochelle focused on spreading two key messages that reflect the goals and work plan of DATCP:

- Agriculture is a diverse industry vital to Wisconsin's economic development, generating \$59.16 billion annual impact
- Buying Wisconsin grown products supports Wisconsin agriculture and local farmers, producers, processors, communities and economies

In her year as Alice, Rochelle travelled over 34,000 miles and generated media coverage with 64 television interviews, 300 speeches, 177 radio interviews, 108 print interviews and 213 internet postings featuring those key messages. She also developed and executed three industry partnerships for campaign blitzes with a fourth planned in the near future.

Rochelle wished the newly announces 66th Alice, Kristin Olson, well in her new role beginning June 3rd.

Board Chair Andy Diercks, on behalf of the Agency and the Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection Board, presented a plaque to Rochelle recognizing her many accomplishments and for her dedication and commitment to her role as the 65th Alice in Dairyland.

Board Member Reports

Mark Schleitwiler- Spring has been busy for BelGioioso with building projects including the construction of the new plant in Fond du Lac and the demolition of the current plant. Rain has put the building project of expanding the Freedom plant a month behind with the anticipated opening occurring in 2014. He also recently spent some time at the Capitol for a cheese and meat reception which brought awareness for Babcock Hall and the Center for Dairy Research renovation. Sixteen million dollars have been currently raised and they are waiting on the approval of the spending budget and then construction can begin. He's wrapping up his year on the Board of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers on which he has served for the past 6 years.

Miranda Leis- On the home front, they have 60% of seeding done on their alfalfa, oats, peas and other crops. Corn is about three weeks behind but they were able to start planting yesterday. Weather also has had an impact for Organic Valley and has delayed construction on their new office building and a road construction project related to the office building. At home, the kids are busy caring for their sheep and chickens which they will be showing at the fair for the first time. Her 11 year old daughter recently competed at a national archery competition in Louisville where she competed against 9,000 other archers and placed well for being a beginner.

Dick Cates- On behalf of the other members on the board, Dick welcomed Dennis Badtke and Dean Strauss. He felt it is truly an honor to sit at the board and it's a significant way to promote agriculture. At home, the grass is growing and the cattle are happy to be done with long, cold spring. He is also wrapping up his 8 month appointment as interim Farm and Industry Short Course Director. The recruitment to fill that position is currently progressing and they have received several applications. June 1st is the 10th annual bicycle "Ride to Farm" event which supports the beginning farmer program at the University of Madison and helps raise awareness of the importance of the next generation of farmers. They will be giving away a Trek bike to the highest fundraiser and Secretary Ben Brancel will be doing the send off.

Dean Strauss- Dean thanked the board for the warm welcome. He felt it is truly an honor to serve on the board and appreciates the diversity within Wisconsin. Weather has been on his mind as of late. Crops are growing but due to their heavy wet clay and the recent weather, they may be looking at a 40% to 50% alfalfa kill. Thankfully, he does have a stock of hay that can take him through Thanksgiving before needing to touch the new crop. Friday he learned of his reappointment to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board which means another three year term for him. He has enjoyed seeing the partnership of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the Center for Dairy Research.

Dennis Badtke- Dennis agreed with Dean's comments and was very thankful and honored to be on the board. He was very impressed with the knowledge and helpfulness of the other board members and the DATCP staff. He then shared the current status of Badgerland Financial which takes care of 32 southern counties within the state and has a 3 billion dollar loan portfolio. There currently is good demand for loans and money is available. Dennis works more with tracking the real estate market in regards to real property. He recently learned that 26% of homes in US are still considered under water in mortgages meaning they are 25% or more in debt than the property is worth and lenders are also not putting their properties back up for sale right away. There is an annual agricultural land study that occurs each July which will utilize 7 licensed general appraisers and 5 trainees as there is a high demand for the service. They are projecting a double digit increase on average in farmland value. Recreational land (mash, timber) has been declining over years but looks to be starting to stabilize.

Mike Dummer- In central Wisconsin, he has 30% to 40% of his corn crop in but no soybeans yet. There has been an erratic winter kill on his alfalfa which will cause some serious demand later on. Things are moving again in the grain business after the road bans were lifted. Mike related to the Farm Center presentation on succession planning as he is part of a 4 generation, 10 family farming operation with three generations on the board of directors for both companies.

This can sometimes present a sizable challenge but he stressed the importance of remembering that everyone has different management styles and to keep an open mind.

Andy Diercks- Andy welcomed the two new board members again and noted that they have big shoes to fill as they replace Margaret Krome, Enrique Figueroa and Pamela Garvey. Margaret, Enrique and Pam all contributed to a very open, honest, and respectful dialogue so he encouraged the new board members to feel comfortable with the board, share compliments, and ask questions. Margaret and Pam were thanked for their service at the last meeting but he wanted to make note and thank Enrique for his service to the Board as well as the support from the Board's assistant Karen Schultz who transferred to another position recently. On the home front, the potatoes are in but were planted 10 days later than when they were last year, due to the fluctuating weather. Corn is also coming along. Andy was happy to see some of the moisture refilling lakes and streams and is looking forward to Dick Cates "Ride to Farm" event.

Secretary's Report

The Farmland Preservation Tax Credit went up before the Finance Committee. Initially, the program was funded with 27 million dollars however, in the last several years roughly only 20 million has been used. The Finance Committee was considering taking money out of the program account as it was not all being utilized. They instead, however, changed the account from a sum certain account back to a sum sufficient which the account was previously. This could always be changes back in the future but it is a good change for right now.

There was a recent proposal within the budget to merge the staff of the Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS) that handle the underground gas tank inspection, plan review of new gas stations, and the inspection of the quality of fuel with DATCP's weights & measures staff who measure the amount of gas being dispensed at the pump to ensure that it is accurate. DSPS currently utilized 46.5 staff members to perform their duties with a 34% compliance rate. Due to the anticipated efficiencies, only 36 positions were approved to merge into the Agency. While we hope for efficiencies, it is too soon to tell what those may be.

The Finance Committee also recently voted for DOA to conduct a study into the efficiencies of merging our Agency with the Department of Safety and Professional Services as a whole. DOA is directed to have a plan for consolidation by January 1, 2014. This will be a monumental task as there are many questions that will need to be addressed for example: what would the agency look like, what would the board be responsible for (all the rules) etc.?

The DATCP proposed budget is up for review tomorrow. DATCP submitted comments and options for such programs as the grain inspection in Superior but did not comment on any grazing or buy local funding as they cannot advocate for programs that the Agency does not currently house. This is something that industry must advocate for and take the lead on. Legislative Finance Committee is being very adamant on reducing the number of state employees due to positions being added to the Department of Revenue and the Department of

Transportation. Any positions that have been vacant position for longer than a year or positions that have recently transferred between agencies are being taken.

The Assembly recently took all the statutory provisions that are related to DATCP's rules and assigned them to various committees in legislative process for review. This is called the "Write the Rules" process. Each Committee then handles the rule review how they see fit. Some are requiring a one page document with background on the rule, the interested party, the impact of the rule etc. In some cases, the Department is allowed to sit in on the committee hearings and then is invited back to answer any questions that were generated from the first meeting.

DATCP recently received a fair amount of comments on ATCP's 50 rule regarding nutrient management. The rule is currently going through the vetting process right now. They have had discussions with DNR, who manage NR151, to make sure that our rule is in concert and does not go against anything in NR151. They anticipate presenting the final draft rule to the Board in September.

The Secretary recently returned from the Governor's Trade Mission trip to China which was very successful. A 200 million dollar contract was signed between TRT and Ginseng Growers. TRT is a company that has been in existence for 600 years and was originally made up of the doctors who treated the Emperors of China. Today, the company has doctors on staff that perform consultations and advise patients with a formulation of herbs and other naturally occurring products of nature. A second contract was signed between the Shanghai Dairy Group and Badger State Ethanol for 37 million dollars. At the same time, DATCP also signed a MOU with the Shanghai Dairy Group, which is a major feed distributor, to agree that they would consider other ethanol plant dry distilleries in Wisconsin as well for the feed resources.

Other doors for mutual international agreements were opened between Tianjin and the US during the trip. Tianjin was the location of the US-China Governors Forum. One of the major issues in Tianjin, and to China as a whole, is food and water quality issues. One of the presentations that was given was by Dean Amhouse who is the president and CEO of the Water Council which is based in Milwaukee and is made of 130 companies that focus on water research, industry and education. Their primary initiative is to build the National Science Foundation's Industry/University Collaborative Research Center which would be a research center collaborating between UW-Milwaukee, Marquette University and six businesses within the Milwaukee region. The Center would help improve water quality, advance understanding of new water technologies and help water equipment manufacturers adopt new technologies. The Mayor of Tianjin and the Water Council are now in discussion about possible funding for the research center to assist with the water quality issues facing Tianjin and China. Dr. Jinn (Connie) Li was also able to speak with the Mayor of Tianjin about the city's traffic problems as Dr. Li is the president of TranSmart Technologies/TrafficCast in Madison.

The Secretary handed out a document outlining the budget impact for the Agency considering the recent sequestration order. The document gave a good picture to the ways the Agency works with and is tied financially to many other entities such as the USDA, EPA, APHIS, NRCS, FSIS

etc. He used this document to start preparing his Divisions to start planning and thinking about how a 5% cut may impact their programs.

This upcoming Thursday, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary Jeff Lyon will be meeting with the Provisional Vice Governor of Ningxia and his delegation. That specific province has the highest quality of milk in the country and is the first province to purchase livestock genetics from Wisconsin. The Deputy Secretary, staff member Jennifer Lu and other businesses will be traveling to the province in early June to strengthen that relationship.

Future Schedule and Agenda Items

The Board is scheduled to meet July 16th in Madison. Board Chair Andy Diercks made a request to hold the next board meeting at another location in the field with a possible tour.

Adjournment

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned at approximately 2:22pm

Andy Diercks, Board Chair

John Koepke, Secretary

